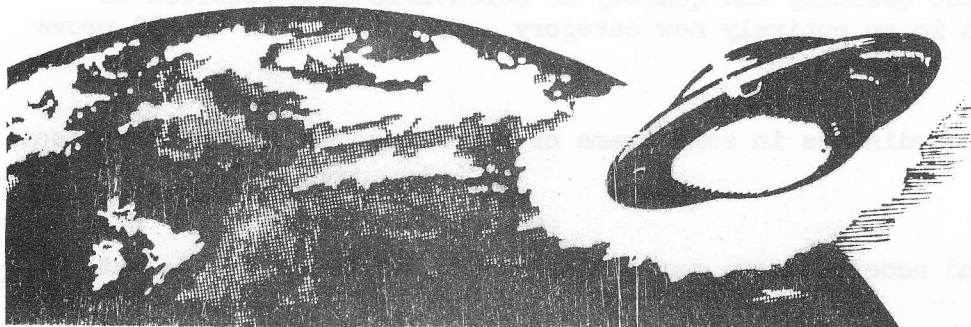


BRITISH UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

PUBLISHERS OF: BUFORA JOURNAL



Newchapel Observatory,
Newchapel,
Stoke-on-Trent,
Staffs.

UFO RESEARCH IN GREAT BRITAIN

The British UFO Research Association is working on the hypothesis that a very small proportion of UFO reports may represent contact with an advanced technology, and although we do not dogmatically state that the extra-terrestrial vehicle theory is the only possible explanation, we do feel it deserves serious consideration. From the logical standpoint, as Dr. Carl Sagan and Vsevolod Troitsky suggest in their fascinating book, "Intelligent Life in the Universe," the number of civilisations "substantially in advance of our own" may be between 50,000 and one million. Whether or not the UFO phenomenon represents a direct confrontation with one or more of these advanced civilisations is a question that has yet to be answered.

UFO research can be divided into three distinct but inter-related aspects which may be classified as follows:- 1. Detection and Observation, 2. Active field investigation and 3. Evaluation and Analysis.

1. Detection and Observation

The UFO event can be described as a relatively rare phenomenon and as such it would be foolish of us not to appreciate the enormous odds against our ever observing a UFO and recording scientific data which could add significantly to our knowledge of the subject. This applies principally to the case where observations are made from a single location on the Earth's surface. For a number of years BUFORA has maintained certain regular "skywatching" activities culminating in a nation observing day during June. Though somewhat limited in their usefulness and the subject of criticism from the more scientifically disciplined, these efforts to observe the UFO phenomenon as it occurred were at least an attempt to come to grips with the problem by people who were a little more experienced with the reported characteristics likely to be encountered, than the casual observer.

More recently as a result of past experience, the emphasis has shifted from largely visual observing to recording instrumentation, albeit of a simple nature. For example if we place a piece of diffraction grating in front of the lens of a camera it may be possible, under favourable circumstances, to obtain a spectrograph of an unknown light source. More valuable than a single photograph, this (the spectrograph) could yield information about the UFO with regard to composition, temperature, density and even the presence of magnetic fields.

A network of observing "posts" operated on a national (or international) scale would of course greatly enhance the probability of recording meaningful data on UFOs. These "posts" could be run along similar lines to the Prairie Network in the U.S.A. or the All-Sky Camera Network of Czechoslovakia and Germany which were designed to acquire photographically orbital data and meteorite impact coordinates of bright fireballs (bolides.) In themselves the fireball networks could not adequately identify the UFO phenomenon.

In spite of the "rarity" of the phenomenon we believe that the stakes are sufficiently high to warrant continued and improved methods of UFO detection and observation. After all we have only to prove one UFO! But having said that the following parameters taken from "The Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects" give us a good idea of the quantity and quality of scientific data required to place the UFO phenomenon in an entirely new category - if infact this should prove to be the case.

1. Dimensions.
2. Position, that is, coordinates in some frame of reference, usually with respect to the observer.
3. Shape.
4. Mass.
5. Motion - velocity and acceleration, particularly with reference to the method of propulsion.
6. Interactions with other systems - effects of electric and magnetic fields on surrounding objects, emission of energy in the form of exhaust, light and sound, aerodynamic lift, ionization.
7. Matter primarily involved - the composition and state of matter and its temperature, rigidity and structure.
8. Origin - the genesis of the phenomenon, the conditions which gave rise to it, its presence in and mode of transport to the region in which it was observed.

In the future cooperation will play a key role in our attempt to solve the UFO enigma. Already BUFORA is working in conjunction with the Interstellar Research group who operate a fully-instrumented observation caravan in Yorkshire. Here various instruments continuously measure the environment in the hope of gathering data which could support their theory of extra-terrestrial visitation.

2. Active field Investigation

BUFORA investigates all significant reports of UFO sightings through its investigations Section. The functions of this group are:-

- A. The interviewing of witnesses to obtain data on UFO phenomena.
- B. The sifting of such data into reliable and unreliable, and significant and insignificant categories.
- C. The appraisal of reliable and significant data with the expectation of identifying them as normal events.
- D. Investigation in depth of the small number of apparently unidentifiable phenomena, followed by the preparation of reports for submission to a panel of expert evaluators, and
- E. To assist the work of the panel in selecting and preparing for scientific publication, reports which justify such action by the quality of their data, the nature of their conclusions and the scientific interest likely to be engendered.

The first stage, of obtaining basic data, is undertaken by a body of investigators drawn from ordinary members who have expressed an interest in this work. They require no high level of training, but need objectivity, keenness, tact and patience in handling witnesses, and, above all, commonsense and integrity. These investigators are organised into sixteen geographical regions, throughout the British Isles, each of which will eventually be under the direction of a Regional Co-ordinator. At the head of the Section is a National Investigations Co-ordinator, responsible for the administration of the Section, for ensuring that Sightings are promptly and adequately investigated, and, in due course, for the collation and preparation of the final reports.

On receiving notification of a Sighting, the NIC notifies such facts as are known to the appropriate Regional Co-ordinator, who allots the nearest, suitable investigator to the case. The investigator calls on the witnesses, interviews them carefully, possibly tape-recording the conversations, visits the site, and assists the witnesses in filling up a standard Sighting Report Form with all relevant data and sketches.

The second stage, the sifting of data, is primarily carried out at investigator level by recording the reliability characteristics of witnesses, the probability of accuracy in the observation, and any special factors which affect the credibility of the case. The Regional Co-ordinator, on receiving a preliminary report from an Investigator, may request additional information until he is satisfied that as full a report as possible has been obtained, and then forwards a final report to the NIC. The latter classifies incoming reports and picks out those of particular significance for investigation in depth, obtains the assistance of experts in specialised fields where necessary, and, ultimately, produces a report suitable for evaluation.

3. Evaluation and Analysis

The Association has recently set up a Panel of Evaluators to whom selected reports will be submitted for a final appraisal. Its members have a scientific background and training, and long experience of UFO investigation. As BUFORA grows in stature and recognition as a scientifically orientated body, it is hoped to draw into this work scientists from a wide range of disciplines so as to cover all aspects of the investigated phenomena.

The work of the Panel will be threefold,

1. To advise the investigations Section where it considers that further information should be obtained, particularly where channels have been overlooked or technical data inadequately compiled.
2. To study adequately investigated, but unidentified cases, and to seek to reach an agreed identification, and
3. To select cases which are suitable for scientific publication, and to advise on the preparation and placing of papers and articles.

It cannot be too strongly emphasised that recognition of the importance of our subject, by Scientific Institutions and by Governments, will only be achieved by the most painstaking investigation, checked and rechecked at every stage, and compiled with full adherence to the tenets of scientific method.

(a) Appraisal of Sighting Reports.

During the past twelve months there has been a complete appraisal of BUFORA's Sighting Report files. All reports which have explanations including those which contain insufficient data for evaluation will be separated from the relatively small residue of inexplicable cases (see statistics.) This remaining hard core of "quality" UFO sightings containing an appreciable amount of scientific data are to form the basis of the Report Analysis Card system. (See attached card.) The complete transfer of data to the analysis cards will then facilitate a number of important and varied comparative research projects.

(b) Expansion of BUFORA Report Files

Checking is now underway into other UFO sighting records and sources of information (for example the magazine Flying Saucer Review and other U.K. UFO organisations) for British cases that are missing from our files. BUFORA is endeavouring to build up a more complete picture of UFO activity in this country. Major consideration should be given to the quality of reports instead of quantity. As we proceed "to put our own house in order," there will also be a strong emphasis on international co-operation wherever possible. "Hard core" case histories will be exchanged with UFO groups throughout the world to provide us with a truly global coverage of the phenomenon.

(c) Specialisation

Specialisation must be a key factor in future UFO research and this policy will be encouraged with the emphasis placed on individual members of the Association and others who would be directly responsible to the Research Director.

4. (d) Research Projects
(i) General

As a general rule, in the future more importance will be placed on comparative studies where the aim is to establish the scientific reality of certain commonly reported UFO characteristics and effects, within the framework of the phenomenon as a whole.

In past statistical analyses where the number of sightings were plotted against location or time, the researcher always came back to the fact that he could never include all UFO sightings, and more probably in his sample he unknowingly used many cases which had normal explanations. The results of such studies have a very limited value therefore.

On the other hand it may be said that to establish a particular characteristic of the UFO phenomenon one does not necessarily need all the cases, but instead perhaps 50, 100 or 500 authenticated reports containing sufficient data which supports and corroborates that "fact."

(ii) Specific Projects

Though not strictly a research project BUFORA is arranging to have the whole of its sighting files microfilmed from a safety point of view. One reel of 16mm. film could accommodate all our records.

COMCAT PROJECT

Project COMCAT, short for Computerised Catalogue Project, has now been initiated by Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, a leading scientific UFO group in the United States. BUFORA has agreed to contribute, on microfilm details of all the unidentified British cases on its files. The final format of this global UFO catalogue has not yet been decided, but when this does become available it will prove an invaluable asset to all serious UFO researchers.

At the beginning of 1973 BUFORA commenced work on a number of new and ambitious projects. Important amongst these was a short term project designed to establish a basic kit to be used in active field investigation. Once the make up of the kit has been decided, this will be included in a UFO investigators' manual or handbook to be published hopefully later this year. Another longer term project involves a comparative study of those UFO cases describing the inhibition of motor vehicle electrical systems.

There are being established within BUFORA small groups or individuals with special interest in certain types of UFO reports e.g. landings, occupant cases, radar cases, reports involving photographs and so on. Even more specialist attention will be given to the commonly reported UFO characteristics such as burnt circles, reports involving sound, the "glowing" effect, radiation effects etc.

Unfortunately there is not space enough here to give more details of the fascinating prospects which lie before us in the realms of serious UFO research. But if you require further information please do not hesitate to write to BUFORA's new Research Headquarters at Newchapel Observatory, Newchapel, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.

FURTHER READING - UFO Books by Scientists

Anatomy of a Phenomena by Jacques Vallee - £1.-36.

Challenge to Science by Jacques and Janine Vallee - £1.-36.

Other Worlds than Ours by C. Maxwell Cade - £1.-62.

Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects by Dr. Edward Condon - £4.-35.

Taming of the Thunderbolts by Cecil & Delphine Cade - £1.-00.

UFOs! YES! by Dr. David Saunders & Roger Harkins - 50p

Uninvited Visitors by Ivan T. Sanderson - £1.-65.

The UFO Experience by Dr. Allen Hynek - £2.-50.

Available from Lionel Beer (Specialist Bookseller)

15 Freshwater Court,
Crawford Street,
London W1H 1HS.

UFO STATISTICS - 1st JANUARY 1949 to 31st DECEMBER 1969
UFO Reports contained on the files of the British UFO Research Association

Year	Satellites and Debris	Balloons	Celestial Objects	Meteorological and Natural Phenomena	Aircraft	Misc.	Insufficient Data	UFOs.	Total
1949	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	4
1950	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
1952	-	1	2	-	1	-	2	1	7
1953	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	4
1954	-	2	-	2	1	2	8	2	17
1955	-	1	2	2	1	1	3	3	13
1956	-	1	5	1	1	2	3	2	15
1957	-	2	2	3	5	4	4	4	24
1958	-	2	6	2	3	1	2	4	20
1959	1	2	5	2	3	4	2	1	20
1960	3	6	15	5	8	1	8	5	51
1961	5	6	12	4	8	1	11	6	53
1962	7	7	18	4	11	4	14	8	73
1963	2	6	8	3	14	4	14	6	57
1964	8	8	11	3	9	7	13	5	64
1965	8	6	22	5	16	6	18	12	93
1966	24	21	23	19	48	19	61	30	245
1967	35	16	63	17	93	23	92	40	379
1968	23	4	13	9	35	13	13	11	121
1969	17	8	28	6	29	8	10	4	110
TOTAL	133	99	235	88	287	102	283	145	1,372

[illegible]